



## Roles and Responsibilities

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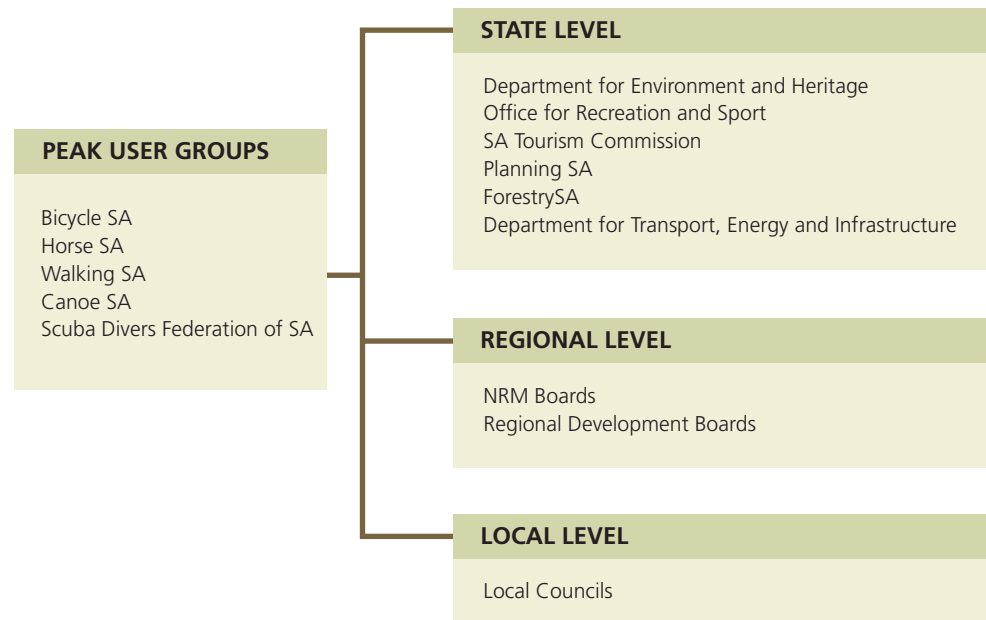
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# 4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

## 4.1 Introduction

There are many different organisations that are involved in the business of recreational trail planning, development and management. These include State Government Departments, local Councils, peak recreational user groups as well as individual community groups and associations. This chapter provides a summary of the main organisations and their roles in trail development and management. The flowchart below illustrates the interaction between the various organisations involved in planning for trail proposals.

Figure 2:  
Roles and Responsibilities  
Flowchart



## 4.2 State Level

The South Australian Government, through its various departments, plays an important role in the provision, planning, promotion and funding of recreational trails. Some departments, such as the Department for Environment & Heritage, are land owners with responsibilities for the management and maintenance of specific trails, while others, such as Planning SA, provide advice, develop strategies and distribute funding.

Where a State Government Minister has management responsibility for a trail, there is provision to provide indemnity for recreation trails that are sited on or adjacent to private property.

Importantly, the funding of new recreational trail proposals can often include contributions from a range of different departments. For this reason, it is crucial that the planning and funding of large scale proposals is effectively coordinated across the various departments. There are a number of techniques available to ensure that coordination is achieved: these are discussed further in Section 5.

### ***Department for Environment & Heritage***

The Department for Environment & Heritage (DEH) is responsible for the management of a network of over 300 parks and reserves which cover 20% of the State's land mass<sup>6</sup>. The majority of these parks and reserves are covered by their own Management Plan which prescribes the types of uses permitted and outlines a management framework for the improvement of the area.

In general, Management Plans recognise that recreational uses are an important and legitimate activity within parks provided that they are managed in a sustainable manner to minimise impacts on the parks' ecological and cultural integrity. Proposals for new or extended trails within parks and reserves will need to be consistent with the aims of the objectives of the relevant Management Plan. An electronic version of most Management Plans is available on the DEH website: [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au).

Another important aspect of park management is the assistance provided by a network of Friends Groups. Currently, there are over 130 of these groups whose members are involved in a wide variety of activities including the removal and management of pest plants, collection of seeds, revegetation and the protection of sites from erosion. Other volunteers research and monitor wildlife and rare plants. Importantly, in most parks, volunteers contribute to the design and maintenance of walking trails and often guide visitors. Because of this, it is crucial that the relevant Friends Group, along with the Park Ranger, be consulted during any initial discussions regarding new trail proposals.

In addition to the management of parks and reserves, DEH is also responsible for the management and promotion of the Heysen and Yurrebilla Trails both within and outside of parks. These trails have their own management plans and, in the case of the Heysen Trail, a specific Friends Group which assists DEH with the management and maintenance of the trail. Further information about the Yurrebilla Trail can be found at [www.parks.sa.gov.au/yurrebilla/index.htm](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/yurrebilla/index.htm) while information about the Heysen Trail can be found at [www.heysentrail.sa.gov.au](http://www.heysentrail.sa.gov.au).

### ***Office for Recreation and Sport***

The Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS) has worked in partnership with other agencies and the community to foster and develop recreational trail opportunities. ORS has been responsible for the preparation of the Draft Recreational Trails Strategy for South Australia 2005-2010 as well as the establishment of the South Australian Trails Coordinating Committee (SATCC) and the creation of a central website containing information about existing trails<sup>7</sup>.

ORS manages a number of funding programs of importance to the development of recreational trails. These include the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program and the Statewide Enhancement Program (StEP). These programs assist in the development of existing or new facilities that meet the active recreation and sporting needs of the community. Further information about the ORS can be found at [www.recsport.sa.gov.au](http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au).

### ***South Australian Tourism Commission***

The South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) has been established to pursue the growth of the State's tourism industry. This is in recognition of the benefits of tourism to the South Australian economy including the creation of jobs and the strong prospects for long-term growth. The tourism industry contributes to the State's economic activity, generating jobs and export dollars by attracting interstate and international tourists.

<sup>6</sup> [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au)

<sup>7</sup> [www.southaustraliantrails.com](http://www.southaustraliantrails.com)

It also promotes the State's cultural attributes and, if managed appropriately, encourages ecologically sustainable development.

Part of SATC's role is to market the State's tourism product intrastate, interstate and internationally to ensure that South Australia is considered an important part of any Australian holiday. The SATC encourages tourism proposals which complement the State's competitive strengths of good living, festivals and events, and accessible nature. It will also work to attract investment, develop strategic tourism assets, and work with tourism businesses to assist the growth of the industry.

The SATC facilitates appropriate tourism development proposals through the Tourism Development Fund, a dollar for dollar grant up to \$50,000 to fund projects that develop capital assets to enhance visitor experiences. Given the acknowledged benefits of trails to the local and wider economy, this fund can and has been used to fund the development of trails. Further information about the SATC can be found at [www.tourism.sa.gov.au](http://www.tourism.sa.gov.au).

### **Planning SA**

Planning SA is the State Government's advisory agency on land use planning, development policy and strategy, the building code, and urban design and open space policy.

Planning SA provides advice to the Minister for Urban Development and Planning, works closely with other State Government agencies and Local Government, and liaises with key stakeholder groups. Planning SA also assists the Minister for Urban Development and Planning in the administration of the Development Act 1993 and related legislation.

Planning SA administers a number of funding programs of importance to recreational trails. These include the Open Space Grant Funding program and the Places for People Program. Planning SA provides funding to Local Government for the purchase or development of regional open space throughout South Australia and the Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS). Places for People provides funding to Local Government for the development of urban design frameworks and guidelines, concept designs, design development and ultimately capital works for prominent public places in cities, suburbs and urban centres. Associations and community groups may choose to explore partnership arrangements with local Councils to meet the eligibility criteria for some of the funding programs. Further information about Planning SA can be found at [www.planning.sa.gov.au](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au).

### **ForestrySA**

ForestrySA manages over 130,000 hectares of native and commercial forests in South Australia. The agency's policy is to facilitate and manage recreation to ensure there is no adverse impact on the sustainable management of the forest reserves, including commercial timber production and the conservation of native forest reserves. Forest reserves are utilised for picnicking, bushwalking, camping, horse riding, cycling and a number of other events such as horse endurance rides, mountain bike competitions and car rallies.

ForestrySA has published recreation policies and provisions to regulate and manage recreation in accordance with the Forestry Act, 1950. Proposals for new trails within forestry reserves should be consistent with these policies and should only proceed with

the appropriate authorisation from the agency. Further information about ForestrySA can be found at [www.forestry.sa.gov.au/rec.stm](http://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/rec.stm).

### **Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure**

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) provides funding to promote cycling across the State. DTEI administers two main programs which provide funds to local Councils: the State Bicycle Fund and the State Black Spot Program – Cycling Projects which help to implement the strategies articulated within *Safety in Numbers – A Cycling Strategy for South Australia 2006–2010* (see page 13).

The State Bicycle Fund is an annual subsidy scheme that provides financial assistance of up to a dollar for dollar basis for Councils to progress cycling initiatives in their local area. These initiatives could include the preparation of local bicycle plans, the development of shared use lanes and bicycle paths which form part of a cycling network as well as other measures to promote and encourage cycling.

The State Black Spot program is directed towards bringing about significant reductions in crashes by the identification and treatment of locations and sections of road that have an unsatisfactory casualty crash record or that have a significant crash potential. Funds from the State Black Spot Program are specifically available to Councils as subsidy funding for cycling safety infrastructure projects. Such projects could include the construction of on-road bicycle lanes and off-road shared use paths.

Importantly, DTEI requires that bicycle facilities must be planned, designed and constructed in accordance with *Austrroads, Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice, Part 14 – Bicycles (1999)*.

DTEI also contributes funding to 'green' cycle paths within an urban setting. These paths, located along dedicated public transport corridors, offer an alternative transport option for commuters while also providing an important facility for recreational cycling. Examples of 'green' cycle paths include the Coast to Vines Trail (Willunga - Marino Rail Corridor) and along the Glenelg Tramway. Further information about DTEI can be found at [www.dtei.sa.gov.au](http://www.dtei.sa.gov.au).

## **4.3 Regional Level**

### **Natural Resources Management Boards**

As mentioned in Section 3.3, the Natural Resources Management Act establishes the Natural Resources Management Council as the statewide peak body for natural resources management and creates a number of Regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) Boards. The purpose of these NRM Boards is to better manage and care for soil, water, landscapes, marine environments, native vegetation and animals. The NRM Boards work towards achieving a set of environmental objectives established within their plans which will guide the collective efforts of rural and urban communities, farmers, conservationists and landowners.

Given the close relationship between recreational trails and the natural environment, NRM Boards can often be an important source of funding and advice for the planning and development of trails. Further information about NRM Boards can be found at [www.nrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au).

### **Regional Development Boards**

A number of Regional Development Boards have been created across the State for the purpose of facilitating sustainable economic development within their region. These Boards are jointly funded by the State Government and their member Councils. While the major role of the Regional Development Boards is to provide advice and assistance to local businesses, they are also able to support projects which may contribute to the regional economy such as recreational trails<sup>8</sup>. Further information about Regional Development Boards can be found at [www.ora.sa.gov.au/boards.shtml](http://www.ora.sa.gov.au/boards.shtml).

<sup>8</sup> For example, the Southern Flinders Ranges Development Board has contributed to the preparation of a Cycle Tourism Masterplan and the development of trails in its region. Further information can be found at [www.sfrdb.com.au](http://www.sfrdb.com.au)

## **4.4 Local Level**

### **Local Government**

Local Councils form one of the three spheres of government in Australia. Within Councils, employed staff provide advice to Councillors, implement Council policies, act on Council decisions, and provide services, advice and information about Local Government to residents, ratepayers, and visitors to the area. Some staff are provided with certain delegated powers to make decisions and allocate funds on behalf of the Council.

Currently, Local Government in South Australia is made up of sixty eight separate Councils covering the metropolitan area of Adelaide and the more densely populated country areas. Each Council is a different size, has a different number of people living in the area, and has different community facilities and public spaces.

The more remote areas where fewer people live are not within Local Government council boundaries. In some remote areas, certain local services are provided under arrangements with the Outback Areas Community Development Trust. Further information can be found at [www.oacdt.sa.gov.au](http://www.oacdt.sa.gov.au).

Local Government is, collectively, a major provider of recreational trails. Many Councils are actively involved in the development of recreational trails and have responsibility for an extensive network of open spaces, reserves and road reserves. As mentioned in chapter 3, most Councils have Strategic Management Plans and Open Space Strategy Plans which guide the distribution of Council resources including the development of recreation facilities such as trails.

Local Government makes significant contributions through its roles in the planning and development of open spaces, reserves and associated recreation and sport facilities and the provision and maintenance of infrastructure that complements and supports recreational trail use. Depending on the size of the Council, proposals that relate to the development of existing or new trails are usually dealt with by the Recreation Officer or Town Planner. However, in some cases, recreational trails may fall under the responsibility of the Council's Engineer or Asset Manager.

Given the 'hands on' nature of much of the work undertaken the Local Government level, it is likely that a range of Council officers will be involved in the planning, design, construction and management of the trail. Therefore, it is important that all relevant officers are consulted during the initial consideration of a trail proposal. Further information about Local Government can be found at [www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au).

## 4.5 Peak User Groups

Peak user groups such as Bicycle SA, Horse SA, Walking SA, Canoe SA and Scuba Divers Federation of SA (amongst others) are actively involved in the development of new recreational trail opportunities along with the maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities. Information production, distribution and education are key functions of these organisations as they are a principal source of trail information for new and experienced trail users.

These groups are also able to lobby Government Departments and local Councils for improved trail facilities on behalf of their members. They can help develop applications for funding and can assist with submissions that comment on Government policies and strategies. Further information about peak user groups can be found at:

**Bicycle SA:**

[www.bikesa.asn.au](http://www.bikesa.asn.au)

**Horse SA:**

[www.horsesa.asn.au](http://www.horsesa.asn.au)

**Walking SA:**

[www.walkingsa.org.au](http://www.walkingsa.org.au)

**Canoe SA:**

[www.sa.canoe.org.au](http://www.sa.canoe.org.au)

**Scuba Divers Federation of SA:**

[www.sdfsa.net](http://www.sdfsa.net)